

1. A client apparatus for a packaging system, the client being capable of communicating with a server via a communications link, wherein the client comprises an input device, an output device and a processing unit that supports a user interface presented by the output device, the processing unit being arranged to permit a user, when
5 in use, to make via the user interface a number of selections respectively based upon a number of packaging criteria for packaging at least one object and render, via the output device, a simulation of the at least one object packaged in response to the number of selections made; the client is further arranged to communicate first output data to the server in response to a command initiated by the user.
- 10 2. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the first output data corresponding to an instruction to initiate packaging of the at least one object according to the number of selections made.
- 15 3. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the number of packaging criteria comprises arrangement of the at least one object.
4. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the at least one object comprises a set of different-shaped objects.
- 20 5. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the number of criteria comprises shapes of the different-shaped objects.
6. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the number of criteria comprises a
25 shape of the at least one object.
7. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the number of criteria comprises a packaging type.

8. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the number of criteria comprises location of the at least one object within a package of the packaging type.
9. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the package type is adaptable in response to a dimension of the at least one object and/or the location of the at least one object within the package.
10. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the number of criteria comprises printed matter to be carried by a package for the at least one object.
11. A server apparatus for a packaging system, the server being capable of communicating with a client via a communications link, wherein the server comprises a processing unit arranged, when in use, to permit a user to make a number of selections respectively based upon a number of packaging criteria for packaging at least one object, and generate rendering data corresponding to a simulation of the at least one object packaged according to the number of selections made; the server is further arranged to communicate the rendering data to the client for display to the user and receive first output data from the client.
12. A terminal apparatus for a packaging system, the apparatus comprising an input device, an output device and a processing unit, the processing unit arranged, when in use, to permit a user to make a number of selections respectively based upon a number of packaging criteria for packaging at least one object, and render via the output device a simulation of the at least one object packaged according to the number of selections made; the terminal is further arranged to generate first output data.
13. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the number of packaging criteria comprises arrangement of the at least one object.

14. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the at least one object comprises a set of different-shaped objects.
15. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the number of criteria comprises shapes of the different-shaped objects.
16. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the number of criteria comprises a shape of the at least one object.
17. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the number of criteria comprises a packaging type.
18. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the number of criteria comprises a location of the at least one object within a package of the packaging type.
19. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the number of criteria comprises printed matter to be carried by a package for the at least one object.
20. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, further arranged to generate first control data for a packaging machine capable of packaging the at least one object according to the number of selections made.
21. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, further arranged to generate second control data for a cutting machine capable of cutting a package blank so as to form, when assembled, a package corresponding to one or more selection made.
22. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, further arranged to generate third control data for controlling a printing device, the printing device being arranged to apply user-defined printed matter to material for use in forming a package blank.

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23. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 22, further arranged to receive the third control data and generate motor control data for controlling motors of the packaging machine over a predetermined period of time, thereby controlling the packaging machine, so as to package the at least one object.

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24. A packaging system comprising a client capable of communicating with a server via a communications link, the server being capable of communicating with a packaging machine, and arranged to permit a user to make a number of selections respectively based upon a number of packaging criteria for packaging at least one object, and render via the
10 client a simulation of the at least one object packaged according to the number of selections made; the client is arranged to communicate first output data to the server in response to a command initiated by the user.

25. A system as claimed in Claim 24, further arranged to generate in response to the
15 first output data first control data for the packaging machine, the packaging machine being capable of packaging the at least one object according to the number of selections made.

26. A system as claimed in Claim 24, further arranged to generate second control data
20 for a cutting machine capable of cutting a package blank that forms, when assembled, a package corresponding to the number of selections made.

27. A system as claimed in Claim 24, further arranged to generate third control data for controlling a printing device, the printing device being arranged to apply printed
25 matter to material for use in forming a package blank.

28. A method of generating output data for a packaging process, the method comprising the steps of:

making a number of selections respectively based upon a number of packaging
30 criteria relating to packaging of the at least one object;

rendering a simulation of the at least one object packaged according to the number of selections made;
generating first output data.

5 29. A method as claimed in Claim 28, further comprising the step of:
 generating second control data for a cutting machine capable of cutting a package blank so as to form, when assembled, a package corresponding to one or more selection made.

10 30. A method as claimed in Claim 28, further comprising the step of:
 generating third control data for controlling a printing device, the printing device being arranged to apply user-defined printed matter to material for use in forming a package blank.

15 31. A computer program element comprising computer program code means to make a computer execute the method as claimed in Claim 28.

32. A computer program element as claimed in Claim 31, embodied on a computer readable medium.

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33. Computer executable software code stored on a computer readable medium, the code being for packaging of at least one object, the code comprising:

 code to make a number of selections respectively based upon a number of packaging criteria relating to packaging of the at least one object;

25 code to render a simulation of the at least one object packaged according to the number of selections made;

 code to generate first output data.

34. A programmed computer for generating control data for controlling a packaging machine, comprising memory having at least one region for storing computer executable program code, and
a processor for executing the program code stored in the memory, wherein the
5 program code includes:
code to receive output data corresponding to a number of selections made respectively based upon a number of packaging criteria relating to packaging of the at least one object;
code to generate rendering data corresponding to a simulation of the at least one
10 object packaged according to the number of selections made;
code to generate first output data.
35. A computer readable medium having computer executable software code stored thereon, the code being for packaging of at least one object and comprising:
15 code to make a number of selections respectively based upon a number of packaging criteria relating to packaging of the at least one object;
code to render a simulation of the at least one object packaged according to the number of selections made;
code to generate first output data.
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36. A control signal adapted to actuate motors of a packaging machine in a manner so as to package at least one object according to a number of selections made respectively based upon a number of packaging criteria relating to packaging of the at least one object.
- 25 37. A use of a client-server arrangement in order to design a package for at least one object and package the at least one object in the package.
38. A client apparatus for a packaging system, the client being capable of communicating with a server via a communications link, wherein the client comprises an
30 input device, an output device and a processing unit that supports a user interface

presented by the output device, the processing unit being arranged to permit a user, when in use, to make via the user interface a number of selections respectively based upon a number of criteria relating to, at least, a package and decoration of the package, and render, via the output device, a simulation of the decorated package blank or assembled
5 package in response to the number of selections made; the client is further arranged to communicate first output data relating to the decorated package blank or the assembled decorated package to the server in response to a command initiated by the user.